

From: Marty Leisner
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 12:35pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I wish to comment on the Proposed Microsoft Antitrust Settlement via the Tunney Act.

I'm a professional software developer with Xerox Corporation. I have been developing software for over 20 years. I have seen the industry change over 20 years -- while the hardware has improved by orders of magnitude, software is a mixed bag -- some chores are harder to accomplish (and sometimes take longer) than 20 years ago.

One thing that has changed is the growth of the computer industry and the PC on every desk. Almost every PC runs microsoft software.

I've been following the Microsoft-DOJ debacle with interest for years. I develop free software. I try to use products which work and which I can customize -- it turns out I try not to use microsoft products. I do not want to live in a world where I have to use microsoft products to interact with other people.

I have no problem if microsoft defines file formats and networking standards, as long as they are public and correct. The proposed settlement does not appear to address this.

As a free software developer software developer, am I entitled to rights as a third party?

Software is a new and unique creation. I think its important to have a resolution of this case which actually encourages competing products (both free and commercial).

Dan Kegel's critique is well thought out. I endorse it and urge you to read it:

<http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html>

I also endorse Ralph Nader and James Love's views as:
<http://www.cptech.org/at/ms/rnj12kollarkotellynov501.html>

Thank you,

Martin Leisner

332 Shaftsbury Road
Rochester, New York 14610
Free Software Writer/User